



Public Schools of North Carolina
State Board of Education
Department of Public Instruction

Report to the North Carolina General Assembly

Remove Barriers to Lateral Entry into
Teaching

Session Law 2009 – 451, sec 7.21 (a & b)

Date Due: February 15, 2010
Report # 25 (New)
DPI Chronological Schedule, 2009-2010

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Removal of Barriers to Lateral Entry into Teaching

North Carolina State Board of Education – February 4, 2010

Legislative Directive:

Statutory Reference: Session Law 2009 – 451, Section 7.21 (a & b)

SECTION 7.21.(a) The State Board of Education shall:

- (1) Review the lateral entry program and identify and remove from it barriers to the lateral entry of skilled individuals from the private sector into the teaching profession;
- (2) Reduce the coursework requirements for lateral entry by consolidating the required competencies into fewer courses and fewer semester hours of coursework; and
- (3) Provide additional opportunities for individuals to complete coursework online and at community colleges.

SECTION 7.21.(b) The State Board of Education shall report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee by January 15, 2010, on its implementation of this section.

Note: Permission to submit the report on February 15, 2010 was granted by the Chairs of the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee on December 10, 2009.

State Board Implementation Schedule

In response to Section 7.21(a & b) of Session Law 2009-45, the State Board of Education discussed, at its January 2010 meeting, a plan to review the current lateral entry program and policies. An *ad hoc* committee of key shareholders was formed in December 2009 to examine the existing alternative routes to licensure for those individuals who choose to enter the teaching profession from other than traditional teacher education programs. The State Board of Education has charged the Department of Public Instruction and the *ad hoc* committee to review the lateral entry program and make recommendations to the State Board of Education to identify and remove barriers to the lateral entry of skilled individuals from the private sector into the teaching profession. The State Board has requested that the committee:

1. Recommend reductions in course work requirements for lateral entry.
2. Identify additional opportunities for individuals to complete course work online and at community colleges beyond what is currently available.

Action Steps toward Implementation:

- a. Review the 2004 Lateral Entry Taskforce Report for inclusion of the proposals and recommendations that were generated as a result of the work completed in 2004.
- b. Solicit public comment and additional feedback in February 2010 through April 2010.
- c. Perform a feasibility and affordability assessment of the combined recommendations.
- d. Develop a detailed plan to implement new policies as of July 1, 2011. The implementation plan will include a Request for Proposal to secure any on-line course modules for teachers to obtain the required course work.
- e. Present the implementation plan for discussion to the June State Board Committee meeting for Twenty-First Century Professionals.
- f. Present the revised implementation plan for action to the July State Board of Education meeting.
- g. If approved, the policy will be codified in the NC Administrative Code as required by the Administrative Procedures Act (APA).